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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /126 W
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R 280800 Z JUN 73
FM USINT CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3313
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1937

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG LY
SUBJECT: JUNE 27-28 PRESS REPORTING ON QADHAAFI IN EGYPT

1. CAIRO PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO GIVE MAJOR SPACE TO QADHAAFI/ SADAT TALKS. REPORTEDLY, SEVEN HOUR MEETING OF TWO LEADERS OCCURRED JUNE 26, WITH ATTENDANCE OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY MINISTER HEGAZI, EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF WAR PRODUCTION BADRI, AND RCC MEMBER AL- HUNI. PRESS REPORTED THAT HEGAZI AND BADRI REVIEWED ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF MERGER AS WELL AS PROGRESS OF WAR PRODUCTION. HEGAZI IS REPORTED TO HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT " THE TRANSFER OF POWERS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS A PRINCIPLA BASIS ON WHICH THE MERGER STATE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CENTRAL MERGER STATE PLANNING." JUNE 27 PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT SADAT HAS ASKED HATEM' S MERGER COMMITTEE TO DRAFT ITS FINAL VISUALIZATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE MERGER STATE.

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2. PRESS REPORTS THAT SADAT AND QADHAAFI RETURN TO CAIRO JUNE 28 FOR FURTHER TALKS ON " EXPANDED LEVEL" TO COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF LIBYA/ EGYPT MERGER. AHRAM REPORTS THAT NEXT WEEK (I. E. , AFTER FRIDAY, JUNE 29) ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PEOPLES ASSEMBLY WILL BE CALLED INTO SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR MEETING WITH QADHAAFI. AKHBAR REPORTS INTERESTING STATEMENT BY HATEM FOLLOWING FOUR- HOUR MEETING OF MERGER COMMITTEE JUNE 27 THAT COMMITTEE WOULD MEET JUNE 30 TO COMPLETE THE PREPARATION OF THE COMMITTEE' S FULL REPORT. THE REPORT WILL INCLUDE THE STEPS WHICH WILL BE TAKEN FROM JULY FIRST UNTIL SEPTEMBER FIRST, AND THE MEASURES WHICH WILL BE TAKEN AFTER SEPTEMBER FIRST-- THAT IS, FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE REFERENDUM ON UNITY."

3. COMMENT: HATEM' S STATEMENTS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS ARE AMONG THE MOST REVEALING TO DATE ON THE INITIAL FORM OF UNITY, IMPLYING THAT CONSIDERABLE AUTHORITY WILL BE LEFT TO EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN REGIONS AS SEPARATE ENTITIES UNDER A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. HATEM' S JUNE 27 STATEMENT IS, MOREOVER, FIRST CLEAR INDICATION WE HAVE HAD THAT ONE OF FIRST ITEMS OF BUSINESS AFTER (OR ON) SEPTEMBER 1 WILL BE PUBLIC REFERENDUM ON MERGER. FINALLY, IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE TONE OF HATEM' S REPORTED REMARKS ABOUT STEPS AND MEASURES WHICH " WILL BE TAKEN," AS IF HIS COMMITTEE-- MADE UP ENTIRELY OF EGYPTIANS-- HAD CONFERRED UPON IT THE POWER TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY BOTH STATES (NOT EGYPT ALONE) IN ADVANCE OF SEPTEMBER FIRST. IT MAY BE THAT QADHAAFI HAS ASKED EGYPTIANS TO MAKE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS UPON WHICH HE AND SADAT WILL THEN PASS JUDGMENT, THEREBY EXCLUDING RCC OR OTHER LIBYAN INPUT TO MERGER PROCESS.
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